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Balinese language

Balinese or simply **Bali**, is a Malayo-Polynesian language spoken by 3.3 million people (as of 2000) on the Indonesian island of Bali as well as Northern Nusa Penida, Western Lombok, Eastern Java,[3] Southern Sumatra, and Sulawesi.[4] Most Balinese speakers also know Indonesian. Balinese itself is not mutually intelligible with Indonesian but may be understood by Javanese speakers after some exposure.

In 2011, the Bali Cultural Agency estimated that the number of people still using the Balinese language in their daily lives on the Bali Island does not exceed 1 million, as in urban areas their parents only introduce the Indonesian language or even English as a foreign language, while daily conversations in the institutions and the mass media have disappeared. The written form of the Balinese language is increasingly unfamiliar and most Balinese people use the Balinese language only as a means of oral communication, often mixing it with Indonesian in their daily speech. But in the transmigration areas outside Bali Island, the Balinese language is extensively used and believed to play an important role in the survival of the language.[5]

The higher registers of the language borrow extensively from Javanese: an old form of classical Javanese, Kawi, is used in Bali as a religious and ceremonial language.

Balinese	
ᬩᬵᬱᬩᬲ, ᬩᬲᬩᬲ[1]	
Bhāṣa Bali, Basa Bali[1]	
Region	Bali, Nusa Penida, Lombok and Java, Indonesia
Ethnicity	Balinese, Bali Aga
Native speakers	3.3 million (2000 census)[1]
Language family	Austronesian ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ Malayo-Sumbawan (?) ▪ Bali–Sasak ▪ **Balinese**
Early form	Old Balinese
Writing system	Latin, Balinese
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	ban (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=45)
ISO 639-3	ban
Glottolog	bali1278 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bali1278)[2]

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Phonology

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low		a	

The official spelling denotes both /a/ and /ə/ by *a*. However, *a* is usually pronounced [ə] when it ends a word, and [ə] occurs also in prefixes *ma-*, *pa-* and *da-*.[6]

Consonants

	Labial		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal
Nasal		m		n		ɲ		ŋ	
Stop/Affricate	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g	
Fricative			s						h
Approximant		w		l		j			
Trill				r					

Depending on dialect, the phoneme /t/ is realized as a voiceless alveolar or retroflex stop. This is in contrast with most other languages in western Indonesia (including Standard Indonesian), which have a dental /t/ patterning with an otherwise alveolar phoneme series.[4]

Stress

Stress falls on the last syllable.[6]

Grammar

The word order is similar to that of Indonesian, and verb and noun inflectional morphology is similarly minimal. However, derivational morphology is extensive, and suffixes are applied to indicate definite or indefinite articles, and optionally to indicate possession.[6]

Registers

Balinese has different registers depending on the relationship and status of those speaking: low (*basa ketah*), middle (*basa madia*), and high (*basa singgih*). *Basa singgih* contains many loanwords from Sanskrit and Javanese.

Numerals

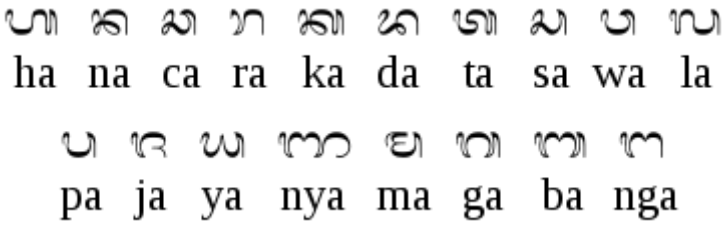
Balinese has a decimal numeral system, but this is complicated by numerous words for intermediate quantities such as 45, 175, and 1600.

Writing

Balinese has been written in two different writing systems: the Balinese script, and in modern times the Latin script.

Balinese script

The Balinese script (*Aksara Bali*, ᬅᬓᬱᬭᬩᬲᬵ), which is arranged as *Hanacaraka* (ᬳᬦᬘᬭᬓ), is an abugida, ultimately derived from the Brāhmī script of India. The earliest known inscriptions date from the 11th century AD.



Basic signs of the Balinese script

Note: The script is arranged in Javanese order.

Few people today are familiar with the Balinese script.[7] The Balinese script is almost the same as Javanese script.

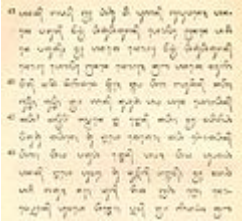
Latin alphabet

Schools in Bali today teach a Latin alphabet known as *Tulisan Bali*.[8]

Gallery

Balinese palm-leaf manuscript

Sign at Pura Puseh Temple, Batuan, Bali



Page from a Bible printed with Balinese script

Street sign in Singaraja, written in Latin and Balinese script

Klungkung Regent's Office sign

Note

^1 In Balinese script, Sanskrit and Kawi loanword has different orthography than native words. The first Balinese script is influenced by orthography of Sanskrit and Kawi as word *basa* derives from the Sanskrit word भाषा *bhāṣā*. Meanwhile, diacritics is not written in current romanization of Balinese language. Thus, ᬩᬵᬲᬩᬵᬲᬶ and *basa Bali* are the standard forms.

See also

- Balinese (Unicode block)

References

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5. "Balinese language 'will never die' " (http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/03/30/balinese-language-will-never-die.html). March 30, 2012.

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External links

- Balinese man speaking Balinese language in different Balinese dialects (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IC5ePCcW4o)
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- Paradisec open access recording (http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/DG1/items/BAL027301) of Balinese song.
- Kaipuleohone's Blust collection includes materials on Balinese, including RB2-006 (https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/33166),RB2-009 (https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/33169).

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